

AMENDMENT

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the Application. Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (Cancelled)

Claim 9 (Currently amended): A method of treating incontinence or vesicoureteral reflux comprising administering an endoprosthesis which includes a hydrogel to a mammal, said hydrogel comprising about 0.5% to 25% by weight, based on the total weight of the hydrogel, of a polymer prepared by a method comprising combining acrylamide and a cross-linking agent; and wherein said hydrogel includes less than 50 ppm monomeric units, wherein said hydrogel ~~is a substantially homogeneous formulation~~ has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 90 Pas.

Claim 10 (Currently amended): The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel polymer is obtainable prepared by combining acrylamide and methylene-bis-acrylamide in a molar ratio of 150:1 to 1000:1.

Claim 11 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 15% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 11, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 40 Pas.

Claim 14 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 80% by weight water or aqueous solution.

Claim 15 (Original): The method according to claim 9, wherein the administering comprises injecting the hydrogel.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 15, wherein the injecting of the hydrogel comprises injections which include

injections at positions 10, 2, and 6 o'clock of the cross-sectional axis of the urethra for the treatment of urinary incontinence;

injections at positions 10, 2, and 6 o'clock of the cross-sectional axis of the colon or rectum for the treatment of anal incontinence; or

injections at positions 10, 2, and 6 o'clock of the cross-sectional axis of the ureter for the treatment of vesicoureteral reflux.

Claim 17 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, further comprising the inclusion of cells.

Claims 18-28 (Cancelled)

Claim 29 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 10% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

Claim 30 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 7.5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

Claim 31 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

Claim 32 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises less than 3.5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

Claim 33 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1.5% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

Claim 34 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 1.6% by weight of the polymer, based on the total weight of the hydrogel.

Claim 35 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 30 Pas.

Claim 36 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 20 Pas.

Claim 37 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the cells comprise stem cells.

Claim 38 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 17, wherein the cells allow for cellular engraftment to the surrounding tissue in the ureter, urethra or *analís canalís*.

Claims 39-46 (Cancelled)

Claim 47 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 50 Pas.

Claim 48 (Cancelled)

Claim 49 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein incontinence is selected from the group consisting of urinary and anal incontinence.

Claim 50 (Cancelled)

Claim 51 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the cross-linking agent is methylene-bis-acrylamide.

Claim 52 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the polymer is substantially comprised of cross-linked polyacrylamide.

Claim 53 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 9, wherein the polymer consists essentially of a polymer prepared by polymerizing acrylamide in the presence of a cross-linking agent.

Claim 54 (Currently amended): A method of treating incontinence or vesicouretal reflux comprising directly injecting a hydrogel into at least one of the conduits selected from the group consisting of the urethra, ureter, rectum, and colon, wherein the hydrogel comprises water or aqueous solution and about 0.5 to 25% by weight polymer having fewer than 50 ppm monomer units and has a complex viscosity of about 2 to 90 Pas, the polymer prepared by combining acrylamide and a cross-linking agent.

Claim 55 (Previously presented): The method of claim 54 wherein the aqueous solution is a saline solution and the cross-linking agent is methylene-bis-acrylamide.

Claim 56 (Cancelled)

Claim 57 (Previously presented): The method according to claim 14, wherein the aqueous solution is a saline solution.

Claims 58-61 (Cancelled)

Claim 62 (New): The method according to claim 9, wherein the hydrogel comprises at least 75% by weight water or aqueous solution.

Claim 63 (New): The method according to claim 14, wherein the water is pyrogen free water.

In re U.S. Patent Application of Jens PETERSEN
Serial No.: 09/938,667 Filing Date: August 27, 2001
Title: POLYACRYLAMIDE HYDROGEL FOR THE TREATMENT OF INCONTINENCE AND
VESICOUTERETAL REFLUX

Claim 64 (New): The method according to claim 54, wherein the water is pyrogen free water.